

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Recently in New York there met the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association, according to committee reports, is growing. That is well. There can be no doubt of the need of organized effort to protect the interests and even the most elementary rights of the negro.

This is an unpleasant thought, but true. The appearance of Jim Crowism in the national offices at Washington, now thrown into higher relief by the president's strange reluctance to attack it, is only one expression of the tendency to isolate and hold the negro down. Recently Mr. Hyde has described the harsh and demoralizing conditions with which the most worthy class of negroes has to cope in Chicago. There is now appearing in the south a new segregation proposal, namely, that when more than a half of the acreage of a section is owned by one race, the voters of the section may exclude ownership by members of another race. In other words, says Doctor Du Bois, here is the policy of race segregation which has resulted in the degradation and destruction of the Indians.

The reminder is sharp-edged. Our mistreatment of the Indians has been admitted to be a blot on the nation's "scutcheon." Are we to drift into an evil even greater? As Doctor Du Bois says, a quarter century ago the solution of the negro problem was formulated thus: "Take the negro out of politics. Train him for work, especially for farm work." The negro has been taken out of politics by various devices of disfranchisement which in effect annul the thirteenth amendment. This process of constitutional repeal has been accepted complacently by a generation preoccupied with its own material achievements and political and social problems. The results of this twofold policy, according to Doctor Du Bois and other observers are "that the negro schools have been neglected; that a large proportion of the negro children are not in school, and that there has been quiet but determined opposition to the success of the higher schools for negroes, while in the industrial and agricultural field the negro has had to contend against tremendous odds."

It should be said in supplement to this, that in the south white schools also have been neglected; that the south has been very poor and economically retarded, and that in many districts the poor whites are worse off than the negroes.

Yet, after all factors are brought within view, the human paradox appears that wherever the negro, in spite of the staggering handicaps under which he moves, has forced himself upward he thereby places himself in competition with white men and immediately becomes the object of their opposition. What is really wanted of him is humble, useful labor. Freedom in name he is to enjoy, but not the freedom a free soul demands, the freedom to move forward, to enjoy "the blessings of liberty," freedom in the "pursuit of happiness."

We shall not solve the negro problem on any such basis. The wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, who said "this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free" is wisdom today. Our policy toward the negro must certainly and most profoundly will react upon ourselves. That is a consideration which gives to the movement for the advancement of colored people the force of enlightened self-interest.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Fifty-seven years of continuous service as a weaver is the remarkable record of a woman employed in a cotton mill in Saco, Me.

The National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, of which Oswald Garrison Villard, president of the New York Evening Post company, is one of the prime movers, was characterized as dangerous and misleading, and one of its Washington agents charged with fraud in a meeting of colored people in the Metropolitan church in M street, Washington.

A resolution was adopted inquiring the number of school teachers and government employees who are giving their aid to the association, the manner of expenditure of money publicly collected for "the advancement of the colored people," the necessity for the existence of such an organization in the district, and whether the organization is incorporated according to the laws of the district.

The largest electrical egg hatching plant in the world is in England, having an average output of 8,000 chickens a week.

Mme. Alice Deschamps, a well-known French sportswoman, celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday by taking part in a lawn tennis, a golf and a croquet match at Le Touquet.

To encourage the use of paper twice instead of just for haling wool the government of Uruguay has lowered the duty on the former.

Montana produced a record amount of zinc last year and increased its silver output 4 per cent. over the figures for 1912.

Another Tribute to the Horse. When it was first said last April that horseracing was to be resumed in the state of New York, Col. Franklin P. Morgan, who loves sport of any sort, expressed his gratification at the news.

"Horseracing," he said enthusiastically, "is a great and glorious thing. It warms the heart, thrills the brain and puts money into circulation."

"Yes, yes," chimed in the group who was listening to him.

"The only trouble is," added the

An earnest plea for the betterment of the rural colored schools of the south was made by James H. Dillard, president and director, at the annual meeting of the board of the Negro Rural school fund of the Anna T. Jeanes foundation, which was held at New York a few days ago.

"The city, town and village schoolhouses for the colored children are often fairly good," says Mr. Dillard, "but in the open country, where we profess to wish the people to remain, and where we profess to wish to train these country children to better country living, anything better than a disgraceful shack is rarely found for the schoolhouse."

The Jeanes foundation, established five years ago, and with the active and financial co-operation of the various counties of the southern states, and that of the Phelps-Stokes fund, is carrying on an educational campaign among the rural negro population of the south.

The scope of the work is so large that though more than \$38,000 has been spent for teachers' salaries alone, the officers and executive committee find themselves badly handicapped for funds with which to properly extend the work of the foundation. Only \$1,195 was available for repairs and equipment of schoolhouses.

So great has been the increase in the number of schools, that it has been found advisable to organize a corps of supervising teachers and state supervisors. The problem of meeting the traveling expenses of these workers is by no means an easy one. In many cases they are dependent upon private contributions from patrons of the schools, where the counties have made no appropriations for the purpose.

Mr. Dillard is optimistic regarding the future of the work, and feels that in spite of many handicaps, a constantly increasing appreciation and spirit of co-operation is being manifested by school officials, both state and county.

More than 300 members of the congregation of St. Francis Xavier's Catholic church at Baltimore, Md., sat at a banquet in the lecture hall of the church, the occasion being the continuation of the golden jubilee celebration of the church, which was opened by Cardinal Gibbons on Sunday. The congregation of St. Francis Xavier's church is a colored one and around the table were many of the most prominent people of the colored community. Councilman Harry S. Cummings said in part:

"We are all citizens of a great government to which we owe all the loyalty and patriotism which we can command. We owe respect and obedience to the law of the land and devotion to everything which makes for the prosperity of our common country. And as our president, whoever he may be in person, is the head of the government, we owe respect and loyalty to him as citizens. We, in return for this loyalty and patriotism, are entitled to receive and enjoy to its fullest extent every right granted to us under the law. And as there should be no difference in degree in our patriotism, so also should there be no difference or discrimination in according to all citizens their rights. Let us hope that our president, with all the power at his command, may see to it that all citizens may be accorded the full measure of their rights, so that each and every one of us may vie with each other in his love and devotion for our flag and our country."

A cork sunk 200 feet deep in the ocean will not rise again to the surface, owing to the great pressure of the water. At any less distance, however, it will gradually work its way back to light.

Booker T. Washington finds that "Virginia is setting a great example for the rest of the south in the matter of showing how the white and colored people may co-operate for general improvement." Doctor Washington adds, "that not only have the efforts of the Negro Organization society received the hearty support of the white people of the state, but that other special lines of endeavor have likewise received their most cordial support."

"This is particularly true in the matter of education. Virginia was the first state to create a state supervisor of rural colored schools, and by so doing set an example for the rest of the south. The work of Jackson Davis in improving the negro schools of Virginia is an indication of how the best white people of the south are ready to give their time and talent for the betterment of conditions among negroes."

Among improvements to be carried out soon on the harbor of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, is the building of an electric power plant to supply new coal loading machinery.

The London (England) county council has decided to issue an order for the closing of barber shops throughout London at the same time.

Canada cuts about 2,000,000 cords of pulp wood annually, about half of which is exported for manufacture in the United States.

Colonel Dry, "that in the matter of horseracing all of the horse sense is on the track, and none of it in the betting ring."—Popular Magazine.

Keeping Cheese. To prevent cheese from getting hard, cut a small piece off for present use and place the remainder in cool place. Spread a thin film of butter over the cut part and cover with a clean cloth. This will prevent that hard, cracked condition which ruins the best of cheese.

Butter Toffee. Very good toffee is made with one pound of sugar, one-half pound of butter, one-quarter pound of sirup, a pinch of salt, a little water and two tablespoons of vinegar, which last-named should be added just before the toffee is done.

TO MAKE PERFECT DUMPLINGS

Really Is No Great Secret, Though Some Housewives Fail to Make a Success of It.

The ability to make really good dumplings is to be desired in these days of high prices; and if we can get as much food value from half the quantity of meat, while adding to it a palatable and digestible amount of dumplings, we will get a better proportion of protein to the needs of the body. Dumplings made by the following recipe will be light and dry, and will be found excellent to serve with chickens, guinea fowl or veal, and may be reheated in the gravy in a casserole. They may be made successful on the top of the stove, also, if care is taken to keep the liquid at the simmering point, and not let boil rapidly after the dumplings are dropped in. Have the gravy thinner than is wanted to serve, as it will thicken some with the cooking of the dumplings.

For five persons, beat one egg till smooth and light, add one cup of sweet milk, one-fourth of a teaspoonful of salt, and flour enough to make a stiff batter. Mix one teaspoonful of baking powder with the last of the flour, and beat well. Drop by teaspoonful into the hot gravy, cover and cook 15 minutes. Dish around the edge of a deep plate, the meat and gravy in the middle.

OLD STYLE OF POTTED BEEF

Nothing Better Has Been Devised Than This Method That Was Used by Our Grandmothers.

Take a good piece of a round of beef and cut off all the fat. Rub the lean well with salt and let it lie two days. Then put it into a jar and add to it a little water in the proportion of half a pint to three pounds of meat. Cover the jar as closely as possible (or use a cover well with a coarse paste or dough) and set it in a slow oven or in a vessel of boiling water for about four hours. Then drain off all the gravy and set the meat before the fire that all the moisture may be drawn out. Pull or cut it to pieces and pound it for a long time in a mortar with pepper, allspice, cloves, mace, nutmeg and melted fresh butter, adding these ingredients gradually and moistening it with a little of the gravy. You must pound it to a fine paste, or till it becomes of the consistency of cream cheese.

Put it into the potted jars and cover it an inch thick with fresh butter that has been melted, skimmed and strained. Tie a leather over each pot and keep them closely covered. Set them in a dry place.

Game and poultry may be potted in this manner.

From the use of melted fresh butter, instead of paraffin in sealing, and other points in this recipe, it will be simply suggestive and a good study for adaptation to modern conditions by those who desire to put up some of this delicacy for special occasion or emergencies.

Angels on Horseback. In spite of its name, this dish is a close relative of our older friends "pigs in blankets." To make these tidbits, wrap each big plump oyster, drained and dried and seasoned with salt and pepper, in a nice, thinly sliced blanket of bacon. Skewer with a wooden toothpick and stick two cloves in the fat end of each oyster. Cook in a hot frying pan or the chafing dish blazer until the bacon is crisp and the "angel" is "plump," as you choose to call it. Serve on small squares of toast with a garnish of watercress and an olive or tiny pickle as an appropriate finish.

Cupid Wafers. Beat one-half cup of softened butter to a cream and gradually beat into it the following in order given: One-half cup powdered sugar, grated rind of one lemon, one cup of strained honey, and two cups of sifted flour. Spread thinly on buttered tins in round forms about two inches in diameter and bake in moderate oven till browned slightly. Let stand for a minute then lift carefully and roll over a round stick. Very dainty to serve at St. Valentine's party. Tie each roll or two together with ribbon and serve with the ice.

Poor Man's Sauce. Mince an onion finely. Fry it in a little dripping until it is tender, then pour over it a glass of vinegar and a glass of water or broth, and a little pepper and salt. Let the sauce simmer gently for a few minutes, then add a tablespoon of mushroom ketchup. This sauce is to be served with young roast turkey. Sufficient for three or four persons.

Painted Flat Irons. One new household flat iron was painted with aluminum paint, such as is used to give a silvery appearance to radiators and stove pipes. She says it keeps them in perfect condition, preventing them from rusting. They were treated to a coat once a year. Of course the flat face of the iron is not touched with the paint.

Old English Crisps. One cup sugar, one-half cup butter, one and one-half cups molasses, three cups flour. Melt the butter and the other ingredients, mix well together and drop by small spoonfuls far apart on a greased flat baking tin. Bake in a rather slow oven, remove from the tin with a broad bladed knife and place over the edge of a bowl to curl and cool.

Whiten Scorching Linen. When white linen has been scorched in the ironing, wet it with soap, and lay it in the sun, if the scorch is slight one. If this does not remove the scorch, boil the piece in milk and soap in the proportion of a quart of a pound of soap to a quart of milk.

Butter Toffee. Very good toffee is made with one pound of sugar, one-half pound of butter, one-quarter pound of sirup, a pinch of salt, a little water and two tablespoons of vinegar, which last-named should be added just before the toffee is done.

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It is the reproach oftenest brought against the colored laborer that he loves pleasure too well to work steadily week in and week out the year round, and the charge is well founded, though it is equally true as regards a part of the native whites. Happy-go-lucky habits inherited from slave ancestors are in large part responsible for the disbelief of the whites in the manifest improvement in the material condition of the colored people. Cannery men in the Chesapeake basin often import foreign labor from Baltimore through the padrones, because the newcomers can be counted upon to stick by the job the season through, while the colored laborer is apt to run off to a camp-meeting or take a trip to Baltimore when the cannery is busiest. Housewives are driven nearly mad by the impossibility of knowing whether the cook will report for duty on any given morning. When spring comes and the men have regular work and wages, the women desert the kitchens and let their husbands or lovers support them. With late autumn, when the farm work is done and many farm laborers are idle, the women are glad to go back to the kitchen in order that there may be money for the household. Thrift is a lesson that the descendant of the slave is slow in learning.

In spite of much idleness, however, and extravagant indulgence in pleasure, the colored people of the Chesapeake basin are rapidly transformed for the better in outward aspect within the past generation. The colored folk that crowd the villages on Saturday night are far better dressed than many European peasant proprietors. Indeed, the colored man's improvidence is apt to take the form of over-indulgence in dress and display. A colored farmer on the eastern shore of Virginia, finding himself with more than \$2,000 in bank at the end of the season, bought five vehicles of various kinds. The bicycle is already much used by the colored people, and it will not be many years before colored men in the Chesapeake basin will be seen driving their own autos.—A. E. Vallandigham.

The clinic of the negro school is showing every day more plainly the price southern white people have paid for their neglect of the problem of the backward race. A cook in a famous Nashville hotel, followed to her home, was found to house in a cellar beneath a foul tenement, to the last degree unsanitary. From this she passed daily to the preparation of food for fastidious whites. A student nurse found a colored baby sick of a contagious disease lying staring up at a clothesline stretched across the crowded, untidy cabin, on which hung the spotted linen destined to be sent back to an exclusive white hotel.

Here in the north the doctrine of social interdependence has been pretty thoroughly learned. We know, if we do not live up to our knowledge, that the rich pay a terrible toll for the degradation of the poor. In the south, it would seem, there has been too much trust among the less inquiring classes that the negro's sins against sanitation would react only upon himself. They are awake now. Five thousand students in southern colleges are this year studying Dr. Weatherford's book on the race problem. The rank and file are coming to see that the tying up of negro religion with social hygiene is likely to have results incalculably important to the whole south.—Mary Bronson Hart, in the Boston Transcript.

Fifteen thousand colored men in Paris are forming a trades union to resist the efforts of the white workmen, who are claimed to be attempting to prevent the colored men from getting an increase in pay. The union will include chauffeurs, hotel porters, domestic servants and others.

To the Department of Public Instruction and Fine Arts of Spain has been allotted \$63,000 for use toward establishing and improving workshops of the country's industrial schools.

Canada is nearly 30 times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, the total area of the Dominion being only 237,000 square miles less than the whole continent of Europe.

A Freiburg physician reported in his practice alone seven persons whose eyes were permanently injured by gazing at the sun during the progress of an eclipse.

The average woman can get more exhilaration out of a cheap compliment than a man can out of a quart of champagne.

The United States patent office last year granted 38,754 patents. In the same period 21,427 patents expired.

Searchlights are to be found mounted on the observation platforms of some western railroad trains.

The largest and highest cactus in the world is found in Arizona. It is 232 feet in height.

German cities having a population of 100,000 or more boast of their fine taxicab service.

"Pyrrhos." Jane Addams, while walking in South Halsted street the other day, was approached by an excited woman, evidently a Greek. The woman, unable to talk English, was gesticulating frantically and pointing to a house in Ewing street.

"Pyrrhos!" she exclaimed. "Pyrrhos!" "Yes?" said Miss Addams gently.

"Pyrrhos!" repeated the woman, tugging at the other's sleeve.

Finally a great light broke upon Miss Addams. "Pyrrhos" is the Greek

Many of the whites in the Chesapeake basin believe that their colored fellow-citizens are not improving materially, morally and intellectually, but he that has known the region for 30 years or so, and who returns to it with a fresh eye, cannot fail to note the improvement that has taken place in that time. The statistics of farming alone in the period between 1900 and 1910 are convincing as to the recent economic improvement of the colored man. In Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, as in many other states, the actual acreage in farms decreased in the decade 1900-1910, but in each of those states the number of colored farmers owning their land decidedly increased. In Delaware the increase was from 332 in 1900 to 406 in 1910; in Maryland, from 3,262 to 3,350; in Virginia, from 26,566 to 32,228.

In each of these states colored tenants are being converted into land owners, for in each the number of tenants is decreasing, while the whole number of negro farmers is increasing. The value of farm lands and buildings owned by colored persons was more than \$22,500,000, and colored tenants and managers were intrusted with the administration of farm lands and buildings to the value of nearly \$25,000,000. Thus the colored farmers of the Chesapeake basin are now in the ownership or occupancy of farm lands and buildings to the value of more than \$55,000,000. A generation ago, when the colored people were still almost within the shadow of slavery, a prosperous negro farmer was a rare sight in the Chesapeake basin. In that region the system common in the cotton states of turning over from 20 to 100 acres of land to be cultivated to cotton by a single slave family was little practiced, so that the colored people were not ready to be turned into tenant farmers, and then into land owners. A few free colored persons had owned land in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia while yet slavery flourished.—Baltimore American.

Twenty-two years ago Jonas W. Thomas, a negro of Marlborough county, South Carolina, began his career as a farmer by buying an old horse for \$40.75, and by renting 30 acres of South Carolina land for 1,400 pounds of lint cotton. After four years of hard work and close saving he was able to buy a mule for \$65 and also 67 acres of land. Then he began renting and working farms which belonged to other men. Gradually he was able to buy the land he had been renting. He also found it worth while to open a commissary.

Now Thomas lives in a 12 room house and employs on his \$40,000 plantation, 39 families, consisting of 189 men, women and children. He grows a variety of crops, including cotton, corn, and some garden truck, and raises his own horses, mules, cows and hogs. He has received as much as \$31,000 for his cotton crop alone—400 bales of long staple. On an average he has saved \$3,000 a year for 22 years. All that he now has on his farm is his own, "directly and indirectly," he affirms with justifiable pride. In a single year he has borrowed of one local bank and repaid \$23,000. "Good credit," so Thomas says, "explains a fair share of my success."

There are floating "movies" in the Netherlands.

A bill was introduced in the senate by Senator Kenyon of Iowa providing for the expenditure of \$200,000, the balance remaining in the hands of the freedmen's bureau, for the construction of a home for aged and infirm colored persons in the District of Columbia.

When navigation officially opened April 24, there were in elevators, on steamers and on railroad cars at Ft. William and Port Arthur, at the head of Lake Superior, more than 42,750,000 bushels of grain awaiting transportation.

British exports to Mexico during the first ten months of this year were considerably greater than during similar periods of the two preceding years.

There are 438 iron mines in the United States, employing 65,170 persons, and costing for operation and development \$74,017,830.

A gas buoy broke away from its moorings in the St. Lawrence and drifted for two years, covering a distance of 18,000 miles.

The total production of coal in China at present reaches almost 10,000,000 tons a year.

A patent has been issued for a pen-holding clip to be fastened to a person's ear.

The homes of this country require about \$239,887,000 worth of furniture each year.

The total output of Idaho's various metal mines last year set a new high record.

word meaning "fire," and the woman was simply trying to tell her that her house was on fire.

An alarm was sent in. The blaze proved to be only a small one and the fire department experienced no difficulty in putting the "pyrrhos" out.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Hallowe'en Happenings. When the boys smash our neighbor's gate, it's the exuberance of youth, but when they smash our gate, it's an outrage.

YUCATAN, the AMERICAN EGYPT



SCENE IN YUCATAN

AGES past, so the Greek historians tell us, there was a continent called Atlantis that was peopled by a highly cultured race. Warriors they were and on conquest bent. The Greek gods, fearing the subjugation of their own people, cast about for means to stay the victorious onrush of the Atlantean, and finding none, appealed to ox-eyed Juno, who persuaded Jove to destroy the Atlanteans by sinking Atlantis to the bottom of the sea.

Tradition has it that at the same time another continent rose, like Aphrodite from the sea, and that some of the Atlantean survivors escaped into this newborn country and there established another empire.

How much of truth and how much of romance there is in this is impossible to state, but there is one thing certain, the peninsula of Yucatan is an infant, comparatively speaking, and of neptunian parentage. Its entire area is nothing but limestone (madrepore) containing the shells of living species and that of fossils bridging the pliocene and pleistocene periods, about 12,000 years ago, the traditional date of the Atlantis disaster.

Yucatan a Strange Land. Yucatan from a topographical and geographical point of view is a strange and remarkable land. It is practically an absolute flat and there are no rivers and no lakes as generally known. The crust of rock covering the peninsula is very porous and full of immense subterranean caverns. The abundant rainfall of ages filtered through this crust and filled these caverns, these great masses of water under pressure gradually perforated the rock and found an outlet to the sea underground. The crust over these subterranean streams in some places, caving, formed pools, nearly all circular and with steep sides and with a depth of water from a few feet to several hundreds, but rarely exceed 200 to 300 feet in diameter.

The pools—cenotes as they are called there—are not plentiful and not all have potable water. None have really good water. All are heavily charged with the different salts.

No metals or any of their chemical compounds or combinations are found on the peninsula, but on the south and where the peninsula connects with the mainland and the geological formation changes, there are large copper deposits, which were known to the Maya. His smelting furnaces and the scorifics from them can be found today along the banks of the Rio Hondo, the boundary of British Honduras and Mexico.

Of soil there is very little. Planters in that country do not plow, but use giant powder to cultivate and plant with; still it seems paradoxical, the whole peninsula is covered with a thick, luxuriant and barely penetrable forest of precious hardwoods, such as mahogany, cedar, rosewood, satinwood, lignum vitae, ebony and hundreds of other beautiful woods. Pre-

guests might appreciate a new dish, he ordered that turtle to be stewed. The aldermen were so delighted with the novelty that they re-elected their host to the municipal chair nine times running.

To Freshen a Room. Very often when the dining room is near the kitchen the sickly smell of cooking becomes unpleasant. By pouring a few drops of oil of lavender into a glass of very hot water the air of the room is purified almost instantly. This is also useful in a sick room if the lavender is prepared just before dinner is ready to be served, the room will be filled with a faint but very acceptable odor of freshness.

Really Forced to It. "I understand," said the judge, "that you stole the watch of the doctor who had just written a prescription for you at the free dispensary. What have you to say to this charge?" "Well, your honor," said the prisoner, "it is true, but I found myself in a hole. His prescription said a spoonful every hour, and I had no water!"

Little Girl's Criticism. The three-year-old daughter of a young married couple has been reared to appreciate moving pictures and vaudeville, but, until recently, she had never been to church. When she accompanied her parents to worship, she naturally expected to be entertained, and was a little restless as she waited in vain for the expected performance. When the family returned from church the little girl's mother asked her how she liked the service.

"Well," said the child, thoughtfully, "the music was nice, but there wasn't any vaudeville."

First Turtle Soup. According to some authorities, Bristol, England, has a special claim to fame as the city where turtle soup was invented by a seventeenth century mayor who was also a shipowner. The captain of one of his ships brought home a live turtle, thinking that the owner would like to have it in his fishpond. This happened just as the mayor was about to give a stivic banquet and deeming that his

dominating is the achras sapote, or the chicle gum tree. There are enough of these to make chewing gum for the whole world.

This is the land of the lord and master when he came from the mystic land of "We-know-not."

At a later period, probably a thousand years before the Spanish conquest, there came to him from across the sea and from the west some mystic wise men, who became his teachers and instructors in the arts and sciences.

The peninsula, away from the highway of nomadic tribes and nations and unknown at that time to the captains of industry, was the home of the dove of peace, the symbol of which to the Maya was the quetzal, the jewel of the jewelbirds.

The Mayan, but having to keep up an enormous standing army to keep peace or to defend his country from a foreign invasion, not being bothered within by trust, monopolies, leagues, schisms or the high cost of living, devoted their time to the mystic and wise men, who evidently found a willing and apt pupil in the Maya, as the result shows. They soon became expert stone cutters, masons, painters and architects. They were excellent astronomers, proof of which is their calendar, and naturally they must have known the fundamental elements of mathematics. Having passed the stage of pictographs, they had evolved a system of hieroglyphics from which to the letter was but a step. And so they prospered, multiplied and built their magnificent and stupendous temples and palaces.

But as time passed they became (as it always was and will be with men) divided against each other, with disastrous results.

A few decades before the coming of the Spaniard, one of these internecine wars commenced and did not end until the common danger compelled them to lay aside their petty quarrels and combine against their greater foe, who slew them by the hundreds thousands.

Population Decimated. Tradition says that the Mayans numbered about 2,000,000 at the time of the conquest, but scarcely 3,000 full-blooded and free Indians remain today.

Physically they are short and sturdy of body, colored somewhat lighter than the northern Indians, and that they are of Mongolian origin is plainly shown by their skulls.

Some writers seek to connect the Maya with the hero god, Itzamna, who, they say, led the Maya from the east across, or rather through the sea, thus giving the Mayan an Atlantean origin; but a close study of Mayan architecture, myths and tradition rejects that theory and accepts the western immigration of the Maya as the only tenable one.

Of all the Indian tribes of the American continent, the Maya was the most highly cultured and civilized.